

## A day of caring

Nancy Perry Day of Caring marks annual United Way of Greater Topeka efforts

More than 800 volunteers from across the Greater Topeka community participated in the annual Nancy Perry Day of Caring sponsored by the United Way of Greater Topeka.

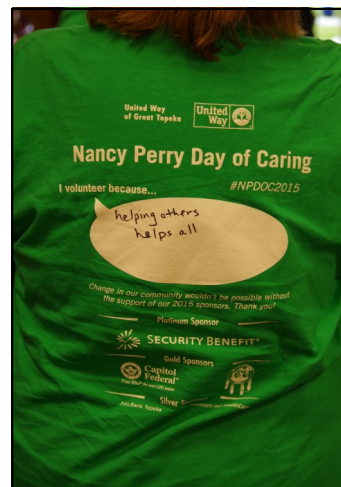
Volunteers fanned out across the community to lend their time and talents to help organizations complete much-needed projects. Volunteers included state employees who took time off from their jobs to lend support to the efforts.



United Way  
of Greater Topeka

The Department of Administration will participate in the annual United Way campaign in October. Employees will receive pledge cards to make financial contributions to the organization. The campaign will run during the month of October and be capped by the annual Department of Administration Chili Cook-off at the Kansas Statehouse.

More details about the chili cook-off will be announced in the coming weeks. The event is tentatively scheduled to be held on the South Steps of the Kansas Statehouse, weather permitting. Last year's event raised over \$700 for the United Way.



## WANT TO HELP?

The Department of Administration is involved in a number of volunteer activities. For more information go to the Community Service link on our home page at <http://www.admin.ks.gov/>



# South Steps Fridays ends with successful Veterans Salute

**T**he inaugural season of South Steps Fridays ended August 7 with a rousing salute to Veterans, complete with live music, colorful flags and beautiful weather.

Several hundred Veterans, state employees and Statehouse visitors participated in the two-hour event. Nearly 20 state and local organizations provided information about services and programs for Veterans, while members of the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard from Fort Riley's 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division were on the grounds with their horses. The soldiers wore cavalry uniforms from the 1800s when Fort Riley was a frontier outpost.

Groups participating included vehicles and soldiers from the Kansas National Guard, KanVet, the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum, Kansas Honor Flight, Heroes on the Water, the Military Veterans Project, Team Red White and Blue, the Kansas Lottery, Employee Support of the Guard and Reserve and the Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs.

Music was provided by the KU Jazz Combo I from the University of Kansas' School of Music. The performance was sponsored by Reach Out Kansas Inc., and Senator and Mrs. Jim Denning. Students from Topeka High School's Marine Corps JRTC program put U.S. Flags around the grounds to give Veterans a proper salute.



John Milburn, Director of Legislative and Public Affairs for the Department of Administration, said the event was well received and many of the participants were already looking for ways to make the celebration bigger and better in 2016.

"This first season of South Steps Fridays exceeded our expectations," Milburn said. "We were looking to create an event that would become a noon-time destination for state employees and visitors to the Capitol Complex. I think we are well on our way to establishing just such an event.

Milburn said groups had expressed interest in coming back in 2016 and working to find ways to bring even more people to the Capitol Complex to showcase the renovated Statehouse, as well as provide a festive environment for families to have a summer lunch.



"We were fortunate to establish some great relationships within state government, Topeka and the greater northeast Kansas community," he said. "I look forward to what we can accomplish next year to make this event a must-do for anyone looking to come to the Kansas Statehouse."





# Yeary named Chief Counsel

John Yeary, a seasoned attorney for the Department of Administration, has been named the agency's new Chief Counsel. He replaces Sarah Shipman, who was named Secretary of Administration earlier this summer.

John graduated from high school in Beloit and attended Washburn University School of Law. He began working for the State as a law clerk for the Kansas Department of Labor in 1994 and later worked for the Kansas Department of Commerce before joining the Department of Administration in 2007.

He and his wife Barbara live in Topeka and have three children and two grandchildren.

The Office of Chief Counsel manages the legal affairs of the agency and serves as the chief legal advisor in a wide variety of areas of law. The office reviews KORA (Kansas Open Records Act) requests and statewide contracts.

Additionally the office is responsible for labor relations in the state and provides counsel on personnel issues. The Office of Chief Counsel advises the Citizens Regulatory Review Board, the Health Care Commission, and the Office of the Repealer.



## *Gaines honored as Employee of the Quarter for service*

Vic Gaines, an employee of the Department of Administration's Printing Plant, was honored as the agency's Employee of the Quarter by Gov. Sam Brownback for outstanding customer service. Gaines was presented with a certificate during a ceremony August 25 in the Kansas Statehouse. Also pictured is Acting Administration Secretary Sarah Shipman.

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# Meet Craig Kibbe

Office of Personnel Services



**Position:**

Deputy Director of HR, Public Safety and Training

**Job Duties:**

Oversee all HR functions for cabinet level public safety agencies

**How long you've been with DofA:**

Since 2011

**Favorite part of your job:**

The people

**Interesting fact about you:**

I'm a high school football and basketball officiator

**Favorite hobby:**

Whatever my kids are into

**How you would spend an ideal day off:**

Sleeping in until 9, drinking coffee until 10, going to a Royals game, napping, going to dinner, napping again, watching Netflix for a couple of hours then going to bed.



## *A note from the Secretary...*

You hear that? It's the sound of summer quickly coming to an end. Students are heading back to school in our neighborhoods while others are heading off for that first semester of college. Either way, the question sure to be asked: How was your summer vacation?

For the state government, the answer can be summed up pretty much in a word, busy.

The agency endured an extended legislative session during which lawmakers went into June before deciding on a budget and tax package. We had a good exercise of going through the furlough process before legislation was signed to keep everyone on the job and calm a lot of nerves.

With the extended session, staff in the financial offices was under pressure to close out the books from one fiscal year and start up the next. As was expected, these individuals performed exceptionally and the state agencies didn't miss a beat.

Like any summer, there were times for fun and games. We launched the inaugural season of South Step Fridays starting in June. The event was designed to give state employees and visitors to the Capitol Complex an opportunity to learn about organizations and events in the Topeka area and across Kansas, eat lunch under the shade of the Statehouse trees and listen to live music.

We were fortunate to have been able to partner with Reach Out Kansas Inc., which graciously sponsored student musicians from the University of Kansas School of Music. Our final event in August was a "Salute to Veterans" at which there were nearly 20 veterans organizations from across Kansas, including the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard from Fort Riley. Planning for the 2016 season has already started.

The Department of Administration also had its annual employee appreciation picnic on the South Steps, complete with grilled food and ice cream. It's become an event where friends from across the agency can sit down for lunch and catch up on what's happening.

Now as we head into the fall, work has already begun on preparing data for legislative interim committees and proposals for the upcoming session. There is little time to rest, but I'm confident that the Department of Administration will remain a steady machine that keeps state government functioning and serving our fellow agencies.

Thanks for all your hard work!

*Sarah*